

GUARD OVER KOREA

Annexation by Japan Now

WARSHIPS ALONG COAST

Long Conferences Being Held Between Officials at Seoul.

NEWS HOURLY EXPECTED HERE

United States Has Treaties With Little Empire Which Would

Be Affected by Change.

SEOUL, Korea, August 19.—Though nothing official can be learned confirming the service men's negotiations for the annexation of Korea by Japan are now proceeding, many signs indicate that annexation is imminent. Long conferences between officials are constantly in progress, visits are frequently interchanged and great activity is noticed in the Japanese district.

The censorship has been picked on an even more rigid basis than before, and Tokyo newspapers containing reports on the situation in Korea are confiscated at Fusan upon their arrival in this country.

The entire country has been placed under a strong military guard and several Japanese war vessels are now patrolling the coast. The situation in the country indicates conditions of extreme tension, but officials maintain a spin-like attitude, refusing to make any statement regarding annexation.

Silence at Tokio.
TOKIO, August 19.—The authorities here maintain complete silence regarding the reports of the impending annexation of Korea, published in special editions of the Japanese papers. They decline either to confirm or to deny the imminence of the annexation.

Dispatches are expected hourly at the State Department from the orient telling of the announcement of an arrangement for Japan to take over.

Ambassador O'Brien in a dispatch to the department yesterday from Tokio. The Associated Press has received word of the unusual activity of officials in Korea and of the warships controlling the Korean coast are interpreted as substantiating the information conveyed to the department by the American ambassador.

Not only is Ambassador O'Brien supposed to be in Seoul, but also in this situation, but American Consul Scidmore, who arrived at Seoul only two weeks ago, is expected to keep the department informed of the progress of negotiations now reported to be under way. The department is also expected to have for the time and hour of the future

No Protest by United States.

The American government has made no protest concerning Japanese domination in Korea. Following the course taken by other powers, no protest was made to that article of the Portsmouth peace treaty between Japan and Russia which Japan probably regards as the latest recognition of its right to take over Korea.

Russian government, acknowledging that Japan possesses in Korea permanent political, military and economical interests, engages neither to obstruct nor interfere with the measures of guidance, protection and control which the imperial government of Japan may find necessary to take in Korea.

The United States, however, has a number of treaties with Korea which would be affected by the taking over of that country by Japan and which would require Japan to notify the American gov-

empire. One of the most important of these is a commercial treaty, whereby the Korean government is prevented from collecting more than 30 per cent ad valorem duty on articles imported from the United States, except on luxuries, where the maximum duty is fixed at 30 per cent. Importation of American articles to Japan is on a far less advantageous basis.

Another treaty that has been considered important by the American government gives to the United States extra-territorial jurisdiction over Americans in Korea. Such jurisdiction is not recognized in

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And Pictures

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